

15 March 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

SUBJECT : Additional economic indicators disclosed in electoral campaign statements of Soviet Leaders

1. In the past several days the most prominent Soviet political personalities have made public statements as candidates in the 14 March elections for the Supreme Soviet. Analysis has been made of speeches by Malenkov, Molotov, Bulganin, Khrushchev, Voroshilov, Mikoyan, Shvernik, Perukhin, Suslov, Proskolov, Shatalin and Ponomarenko.

2. All of the speakers disclosed economic data covering diverse sectors of activity. All of the information presented has been previously published in the plan fulfillment report for 1953 or in the agricultural decrees relating to the expansion of grain, meat and vegetable production. ORE has commented on these statistics in CIA/RR, IN-383, "The Implications of the New Soviet Economic Policy" and Current Intelligence Weekly, 12 February 1954, "Evaluation of the 1953 Plan Fulfillment Report."

3. Although the housing statistics provided in the speeches are not new, they have been assembled in a meaningful whole for the first time. Upon this basis ORE includes a brief evaluation of developments in housing.

4. All of the speakers stressed the inadequacy of housing and the urgent need to alleviate the problem. They indicated that in spite of the 183 million square meters of housing constructed since the end of the war, an increased rate of housing construction is required.

5. No statistics have been issued in respect to increased goals for housing construction and the allocations necessitated thereby. However, analysis of scattered information on plans indicates a range of increases of new housing for 1954 of 25 to 50 percent over 1953, with a best estimate of about 33 percent.

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6. Housing construction has absorbed about 25 percent of the total output of the Soviet construction industry in the postwar period. It appears that an over-all plan, which can only be suggested by the information presented here, would demand an increased share of the resources of the construction industry.

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